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CWO '06 to Attract World Ocean Community

California and the World Ocean '06, Long Beach Convention Center Sun. Sept. 17 to Wed. Sept. 20

Long Beach, Sept. 15, 2006 - *California and the World Ocean '06 (CWO '06*) Conference with 1,000 attendees from 23 states and 6 countries spanning 4 continents begins Sun., Sept. 17. The conference will run through Wed., Sept. 20.

For the fourth time in California's history, the state will host an international conference focused on improving ocean and coastal management in California and throughout the world. California U.S. Representatives Sam Farr and Dana Rohrabacher and State Assemblymembers Fran Pavley and Betty Karnette will launch the conference Sunday at a welcome reception.

On Monday, September 18, the conference will open with a significant ocean policy announcement. Details of the announcement will not be disclosed until they are released during the Opening Session from 8:15 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.

In addition, the California Ocean Awareness Campaign, "Thank You Ocean" will be launched at Monday's Opening Session. Following this announcement on Monday, the Web site will be available at http://thankyouocean.org/

This entire session will be webcast live from http://resources.ca.gov/ocean/cwo06/webcast.htm

CWO '06 will feature hundreds of speakers, presenters and panelists in more than 60 different sessions on issues from ocean water quality and ecosystem-based management to marine protected areas and fisheries management. Sessions begin each day 8 a.m. and run until 6 p.m.

See http://resources.ca.gov/ocean/cwo06/ for more information on the conference. CWO '06 press information can be found at http://resources.ca.gov/ocean/cwo06/press.htm.